

## **PSYCHIATRIC DIVERSION**

Psychiatric Diversion funds are utilized to prevent inappropriate and/or unnecessary hospitalizations. The intent is to reduce funding barriers to obtain needed services and provide appropriate and cost effective services to children being considered for psychiatric hospital placement. Programs which are funded, in part, through psychiatric diversion funds are career foster care, behavioral foster care, residential treatment, and the Interdepartmental Initiative. These programs serve children with the highest needs who are the most likely to require psychiatric placement in lieu of individualized services.

The Interdepartmental Initiative provides care management services for children with severe behavioral needs, including placement and treatment. In addition, case management services are provided through the contracted agency. The career and behavioral foster care programs provide individualized, intensive care to children with serious behavior and emotional problems through providers with specialized training. Residential treatment services are provided to those children requiring intensive, individualized treatment who are unable to live in a family-like setting. Licensed child placing agencies provide such services. The goal of residential treatment is to move children to family/community settings in a planned, expeditious manner.

During FY-05, expenditures totaled \$13,818,020 in psychiatric diversion funds as of April 30, 2005.